



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN
SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

November 26, 2007

MEMORANDUM

TO: State Board of Education *Mike*
FROM: Michael P. Flanagan, Chairman
SUBJECT: Report on the Conditional Approval of a Modification to the Previously
Approved Marquette-Alger Regional Educational Service Agency Plan for the
Delivery of Special Education Programs and Services

Pursuant to Section 380.1711 of the School Code of 1976, each intermediate school district must develop, establish, continually evaluate, and modify its Plan for the Delivery of Special Education Programs and Services (Plan). Approval indicates that intermediate school districts' and local constituent districts' special education programs and services described in the Plan meet standards which are consistent with federal and state requirements. Approval also allows intermediate school districts to receive reimbursement pursuant to the State School Aid Act.

Staff has reviewed, and I have granted the conditional approval of the Marquette-Alger Regional Educational Service Agency (RESA) Plan modification. The conditional approval is based on the criteria described in a letter from Dr. Jacquelyn Thompson, Director, Office of Special Education and Early Intervention Services, to Dr. June M. Schaefer, Superintendent, Marquette-Alger RESA, dated January 17, 2007 (Attachment A). The Marquette-Alger RESA must submit the Plan with the modification for full approval after July 1, 2008, with an annual evaluation of the impact of this modification.

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Summary for Modification to MARESA Plan 11/07

Marquette-Alger Regional Educational Service Agency has requested a modification to their Early Childhood program so that they may operate it to provide opportunities for coordinated efforts for the early childhood special education teacher and the kindergarten teacher to run an alternate day schedule kindergarten calendar. The full day alternate program provides better opportunities to integrate students in a Kindergarten program.



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January 17, 2007

Dr. June M. Schaefer
Superintendent
Marquette-Alger Regional Educational Service Agency
321 East Ohio
Marquette, Michigan 49855-3847

Dear Dr. Schaefer:

The Office of Special Education and Early Intervention Services has reviewed the Marquette-Alger Regional Educational Service Agency Plan for the Delivery of Special Education Programs and Services modification request for Rule 340.1754(b) and would like to support the implementation of this modification for the 2006-2007 school year, with conditional approval being given if the following conditions are met:

1. Provide information regarding potential impact on improving opportunities for students with disabilities to be included in activities with their peers who are non-disabled;
2. Provide information addressing how accountability for appropriate pupil accounting will be assured; and
3. Provide a plan for evaluating the effectiveness of this modification as it impacts students, teachers, and parents.

Upon submission of the above, conditional approval will be recommended to the Superintendent. An annual evaluation of the impact of this modification, addressing each of the above items, must be provided for 2006-2007 and 2007-2008. Please contact Ms. Ann Omans, Supervisor, Program Accountability, Office of Special Education and Early Intervention Services, at (517) 373-0924, or via email at omansa@michigan.gov, regarding submission of the information required.

Sincerely,



Jacquelyn J. Thompson, Ph.D.
Director
Office of Special Education and Early Intervention Services

JJT/RB/sfk

c: Ms. Luanne Peterson

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